

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THANKSGIVING.

Thanksgiving is a harvest festival, and the first crops of the pilgrims that had settled in New England having failed, the wild turkey was a welcome addition to the table of the half-starved little community. He has ever since remained the pride of Thanksgiving day, and many millions of turkeys fall victims to the traditional celebration of this typically American family festival.



THE TWO RIVALS.

It seems a pity that man sustains his life at the cost of lower life, but to anyone who has closely studied the subject this condition appears to be inevitable; and it is certain that if sheep and oxen and chickens and turkeys and other animals of the same class were not eaten, these creatures would not be much better off. Indeed the greater part of them would not exist at all, for they are specially raised for the butcher and have no other purpose of existence but to sustain human life. Thus, however, they acquire a significance which utterly transcends their own comprehension, and to some extent their fate is easier and better than that of any

other being, man himself not excepted. They live in perfect safety and without care, well tended, and their wants always satisfied, until one day with the least pain their thread of life is cut in the stockyards. And if they knew their fate they would gladly die in the assurance that their lives serve as a pedestal for mankind to stand on. They serve to raise the standard of living and contribute not a little toward the comfort and well-being of the highest race that has developed upon the earth.

There is a humorous old German student song called the lamentations of a goose written in condemnation of man's barbarous habit of feeding on flesh. In many parts of Europe the goose takes the place of the American turkey and is considered the best ornament of the fall festivals, especially Martini; substituting the word turkey for goose, the song begins thus:

Man is a cannibal by nature;  
He does not mind his fellow creature.  
Me, poor Turkey, they have also caught  
And with cranberries on the table brought.

The poor Turkeys have had a hard time this year. The summer was too wet for them and many millions died before they could be dressed to grace the thanksgiving dinner-table.

P. C.

## HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN JAPAN.<sup>1</sup>

The Rev. Hans Haas, a German Lutheran missionary to Japan, who through long residence is very familiar not only with the language but also with the customs and literature of the country, has been engaged for many years in studying and writing the history of Christianity in Japan. So far the first volume only lies before us, and the work promises to become very complete and at the same time reliable and impartial. Judging from the first installment, we may expect the entire book to become a classical work which will be the best authority on the subject.

The Rev. Haas is a German and a Protestant, and at the very beginning he meets with the difficulty that the apostle of Japanese Christianity is a Roman Catholic and a Jesuit, nay more, the arch-Jesuit and founder of Jesuitism, Francis Xavier; and Mr. Haas has done his task with remarkable fairness and justice toward the representative of Jesuitism so much hated by Protestants.

The first volume is adorned with the reproduction of Xavier's portrait taken from Tursellin's biography which appeared at Cologne in the year 1610, thirty-five years after Xavier's death. No better frontispiece could have been selected, for the first volume is practically devoted to Xavier's missionary work.

The introductory chapters contain a very vivid description of the first rumors that reached Europe of the existence of Zipangu, and of attempts to find those rich islands; then their discovery by the Portuguese, and the conversion and baptism of three Japanese gentlemen in Gao in the Molucca islands, through Francis Xavier, which is the beginning of the Christianising of Japan. The remainder of the book is a history of Xavier's sojourn in Japan.

The report concerning the first native Christian is literally quoted from Mendez Pinto, who says that when they were just weighing anchor in the Bay of Yama-

<sup>1</sup> *Geschichte des Christenthums in Japan*. Von Pfarrer Hans Haas. I. Erste Einführung des Christenthums in Japan durch Franz Xavier. 1902. Pages, xiv, 300.